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1837

MINUTES

OF THE

GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

OF

Pennsylvania.

Met in Lancaster from the 21st to 25th of May, A. D. 1837.

Allentown, Pa.
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1837.

Agreeably to a resolution of the last annual Session, the clerical and lay-brethren constituting the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania, met in the City of Lancaster on Trinity-Fast, in the year of our Lord 1837.

At 10 o'clock A. M. the brethren left the Parsonage and walked in procession to the church, where the President, Revd. Mr. Hecht, preached the Synodical sermon from 2 Tim. 2, 15. In the after-noon the Secretary, Revd. Mr. German preached from 1 Thes. 5, 23. Revd. Prof. Schmucker, D. D. preached in the evening from Matth. 24, 14.

In Zions Church Revd. Dr. Demme preached in the morning from John 16, 23. 24; in the after-noon Revd. Pastor Scheurer preached from John 3, 14, and Revd. Mr. Hemping in the evening from 1 Cor. 1, 21—23.

In the Reformed church, Revd. Jon. Ruthrauff preached in the morning from Col. 3, 2; in the after-noon Revd. Candidate Scholl, from John 3, 16, both in the English language—and in the evening Revd. Mr. Hæsbært preached in the German language from 1 Cor. 12, 3.

In the church of the Brethren Revd. Pastor Schæffer preached at 10 o'clock A. M. from 2 Thess. 2, 16, 17, in the English language.

Rev. Mr. Finkel preached on Saturday evening in the Lutheran church, in English, from Is. 58, 1.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SYNOD.

First Session.

Monday morning, May 22nd, 9 o'clock.

Agreeably to previous notice the Ministers and lay-delegates met in church. After the President had opened the meeting by singing a hymn and offering up a prayer, the names of the ministers were called. The following brethren were present:

Pastor	Hecht,	of Easton.
	J. Miller,	Reading.
	D. Ulrich,	Tulpehocken.
	Bætis,	Lancaster.
	Meendsen,	Kreidersville.
	Becker,	Lancaster.
	Hemping,	Lykens-Valley.
	Strein,	Columbia.
	C. Miller,	Swamp.
	Trumbrauer,	Leacock Township, Lancaster Co.
	German,	Allentown.
Doctor	Demme,	Philadelphia.
Pastor	Fr. Ruthrauff,	Vincent, Chester Co.
	G. Jæger,	Hamburg.
	Abele,	Aaronsburg.
	Waage,	Goshenhoppen.
	Scheurer,	East Penn, Northampton Co.
	Reichert,	Germantown.
	Jon. Ruthrauff,	Lebanon.
	H. S. Miller,	Bucksville, Bucks Co.
	C. P. Miller,	Warwick, Lancaster Co.
	Wampold,	Trappe.
	J. Jæger,	Allentown.
	Gross.	Snydersville, Northampton Co.
	J. Rœller, jr.	Kutztown.
	Schuetz,	Lycoming Co., Blackhole P. O.
	J. Schindel,	Jordan.
	Bernheim,	Elizabethtown.

Pastor	Hæsbert,	of Baltimore.
	Medtart,	Philadelphia.
	Welden,	New Holland.
	Sahm,	Middletown.
	Barnitz,	Lower Merion.
	C. W. Schæffer,	Barrenhill.
Professor	Reynolds,	Gettysburg.
Pastor	Merz,	Lancaster.
	Scholl,	Germantown.
	Minnig,	Schuylkill Co.
	Stœver,	Milton.

The following brethren were absent:

Pastor J. Rœller, sen. not excused.
Minnig, sen. excused.
Vanhoff, not excused.
Ernst, excused.
P. Schindel, sen. excused.
Probst, excused.
Dœring, excused.
Stecher, excused.
Heilig, excused.
Kemmerer, not excused.
Schulze, excused.
Benninger, not excused.
Beilharz, not excused.
Herpel, excused.
Peixotto, excused.
Dietsch, not excused.
Fuchs, excused.
Professor Schmidt, excused.
Pastor Sprecher, excused.

The following persons now presented their credentials, as Lay-Delegates and took their seats as members of the Synod, viz:

Jacob Borgholder,	of Tulpehocken.
John Shober,	Lancaster Co.
Benjamin Breinig,	Kreidersville.
Adam Keller,	Lancaster.
George Philips,	Lykens Valley.
Jacob Klug,	Columbia.

Georg Schreiner,	Leacock Township, Lancaster Co.
Francis Gauss,	Philadelphia.
Dr. Fr. W. Heckel,	Vincent, Chester Co.
Samuel Billman,	Lynntown.
Peter Reiter,	Goshenhoppen.
Fr. Emhardt,	Germantown.
John Scherb,	Warwick.
Christian Pretz,	Allentown.
Frederick Keyser,	Snydersville, Northampton Co.
John Wittemayer,	Elizabethtown.
J. N. Fisher,	Philadelphia.
Jacob Zerbe,	New Holland.
James Camble,	Middletown.
John Dager,	Barrenhill.
George Brickel,	Lancaster.
George Heist,	Germantown.
Henry Stein,	
J. Fullmer.	Milton.

On motion of Revd. Mr. Baker, the following brethren were received as members of this Synod, viz: Revd. Jon. Ruthrauff, Finkel and Stœver, formerly members of the West Pennsylvania Synod.

The following brethren appeared as Delegates from sister Synods and as such were admitted as members of this body, viz:

Rev. Dr. Moyer, as Delegate from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of New York.

Revd. Mr. Lochman, as delegate from the Synod of West-Pennsylvania.

The Revd. Messrs. Brunner and Hertz, as delegates from the Synod of the German Reformed Church.

The Synod as thus constituted, consisted of 67 members, viz: 43 clerical and 24 Lay-Delegates.

The Revd. Dr. Schmucker, of York, Professor Schmucker of Gettysburg, Revd. Mr. Ulrich, members of the West-Pennsylvania Synod and Pastor S. Reinecke of the Moravian church, were introduced and acknowledged as consulting members.

The Synod now held an election for officers for the ensuing year. The President appointed Revd. Mr. Meendsen and Dr. Fr. Wm. Heckel as inspectors of the same. Upon counting the votes they reported the following persons as elected, viz:

Pastor *J. P. Hecht*, President.
B. German, Secretary.
D. Ulrich, Treasurer.

The officers elected having taken their seats, the documents address-

ed to the Synod were called for by the President, numbered and distributed amongst eight committees, to be examined and reported upon.

The first committee consisted of Revd. Messrs. J. Miller, Batis, Meendsen and the delegates Fr. Gauss and Dr. Fr. W. Heckel.

The 2nd consisted of Revd. Messrs. Hemping, Strein, Trumbauer and the delegates Borgholder and Schober.

The 3rd embraced the Revd. Messrs. C. Miller, H. S. Miller, Dr. Demme and Breinig and Philips, delegates.

The 4th the Revd. Messrs. F. Ruthrauff, G. Jæger, Lochman and Klug and Schreiner delegates.

The 5th consisted of Pastors Abele, Waage and Scheurer and Lay-delegates Billman and Reiter.

The 6th were Pastors Richards, C. P. Miller, Wampold and the delegates Emhardt and Schorb.

The 7th embraced Revd. Messrs. J. Jæger, Gross, Rœller, jr. and Pretz and Keyser, delegates.

The 8th consisted of Revd. Messrs. J. Schindel, Bernheim, Hæsbært and the delegates Fisher and Wittemayer.

Revd. Messrs. Batis and Schæffer and Dr. Heckel were appointed by the President a committee to examine the account of the Treasurer.

On motion of Dr. Demme, it was

Resolved: That the candidates give their papers into the hands of the chairman of the examining committee and that this committee be permitted to report so soon as practicable.

There were added to the committee of examination by the President, Revd. Mr. Waage in the place of Revd. Mr. J. Miller and Revd. Mr. Abele in the place of Pastor Peixotto.

On motion of brother Becker, it was

Resolved: That the President appoint a committee to examine the list of the ministers and to strike out the names of such as are no more members of this Synod. The Revd. Messrs. Demme, D. D. J. Miller and Meendsen were appointed on this committee.

Brother Bætis closed the session with prayer.

Second Session.

Monday after-noon, 3 o'clock.

This session was opened by singing a hymn, and a prayer by Mr. Abele.

First committee reported.

No. 1. Is a letter from the Council of the Harrisburg congregation, in which they express their entire satisfaction with their Minister, the

Revd. Mr. Sprecher, and at the same time express the wish, that Synod might ordain brother Sprecher.

Deferred to the session of the Ministerium.

No. 2. Contains 1. a letter from Pastor Schulze of Williamsport, in which he informs the Synod, that he attended the meeting of the West Pennsylvanian Synod, last Fall in Lewistown, and was received and treated by the same in a friendly manner; he likewise excuses his non-attendance at this Synod, on account of indisposition.

On motion of Mr. Becker Mr. Schulze was excused.

2. Several documents, in reference to the Rœdelsheim Legacy which ex-Governor Schulze transmitted to the Synod by Pastor Schulze: amongst which are two private letters from Chancellor Niemeyer to the former Governor, J. A. Schulze, which he wishes should be sent back, in case they should be of no value to the Synod.

Resolved: That these letters be given into the hands of the president, to be retained or sent back, by him at pleasure.

No. 3. Is a letter of Pastor M. Herpel of Orwigsburg, in which he asks the Synod to excuse his non-attendance at the Synod. He reports, that he had transmitted to the Synod by the hands of candidate Minnig, as contribution to the synodical and missionary Treasuries $15.50; and he also adds a report of his ministerial transactions for last year, wishing the divine blessing might rest upon the present synodical meeting.

Mr. Herpel was excused.

No. 4. Is a letter from five congregations in Schuylkill county, in which the members of the several vestries testify their entire approbation of the deportment and doctrine of their minister, Mr. Wm. Minnig.

The Synod is pleased to hear this good report.

Report of the Committee of Examination.

The examining committee report, that in reference to Mr. Minner they received the following documents:

1. A request of Mr. Fr. Minner to be examined, accompanied by a favourable testimonial concerning his examination as candidate in Tuebingen, and by two favorable testimonials concerning his faithfulness, and moral conduct, during his ministry in Ehningen and Field Renach.

Your committee move: That, though Mr. Minner has not been two years in this country, yet he be admitted to an examination; provided no objections be brought against his moral conduct.

This motion of the committee being entertained, it was
Resolved: That Mr. Frederick Minner be examined.

There was a letter before your committee in reference to Mr. Duy, in which application is made to him by the congregation in Gohensy,

in New Jersey, for his services as their pastor; again, another letter from the President, in which he gives him a license ad interim, on condition, that he apply at the next Synod; also a petition from the congregation of Gohensy, to the Synod to renew Mr. Duy's license.

The committee move, that Mr. Duy be examined and that the petition of the congregation be granted, in case his examination terminate favorably.

C. R. DEMME.
JOHN C. BECKER.
CONRAD MILLER.
JOHN FR. ABELE.
FREDERICK WAAGE.

On motion of Dr. Mayer, it was
Resolved: That Mr. Duy be examined.

The second committee reported by Pastor Hemping as follows:

No. 5. Is a good testimonial for Mr. Jarret Schuetz, accompanied by a petition to the Synod, to recall the resolution passed at their last annual meeting, in reference to Mr. Schuetz.

The consideration of this part of the report was deferred until the third committee reports.

No. 6. Is a letter from Revd. Geo. Minnig, asking Synod to excuse his absence, on account of sickness; and stating that he transmitted by the hands of his son $5.00 for the synodical Treasury, as also 1 dollar as his contribution to the missionary Treasury and his parochial report.

On motion of Mr. Bernheim, Pastor Minnig was excused.

No. 7. Contains a report of the Conference, which was held at Elizabethtown 7. Jan. 1837. The committee are of the opinion, that the resolutions passed at the Conference be read before Synod.

On motion of Revd. Mr. Becker, it was
Resolved: That these proceedings be not read.

No. 8. Contains a request of Mr. Stein in Jonestown to be excused on account of his absence, without assigning any reason; as also a notice, that he had sent $15.00 by Mr. Scheurer for the missionary Treasury; he also adds his parochial report.

Resolved: That Mr. Stein be excused.

The third committee reported by Pastor C. Miller as follows, viz:

No. 9. Contains a letter from Revd. Mr. Peixotto. The committee are of opinion, that this letter, as it relates to matters of general interest, should be read before Synod.

Resolved: That it be read.

After the reading of the letter on motion of Dr. Demme it was
Resolved: That Pastor Peixotto's absence be excused.

After the contents of the letter were duly considered on motion of J. Miller it was
Resolved: That the proposal, contained in the letter of the Revd. Mr Peixotto, to publish a religious Newspaper, be committed to a special committee. The committee appointed by the president consists

of the Revd. Messrs. Demme, D. D. Ulrich, Fr. Ruthrauff, Dr. Fr. Wm. Heckel and Mr. Hummel.

No. 10. Contains a letter from the Church council of the congregation in Turbet Township, Northumberland Co. embracing a vindication of Mr. Jaret Schuetz, Minister of that congregation.

The Committee regrets, that a vindication of Mr. Jaret Schuetz was deemed again at all, necessary. But as the letter contains certain petitions to Synod, on the granting of which, the committee do not wish to decide, they are consequently impelled to move, the reading of this letter also, before the Synod.

Resolved: That this letter be read.

After the reading, and consideration of the letter by the Synod, on motion of Dr. Demme it was

Resolved: That the petitions contained in this letter, cannot be granted by the Synod.

No. 11. Contains a letter from Pastor Keller to the president, in which he expresses his fraternal regard for this Synod, and solicits a certificate of dismission, as he was removed within a different synodical district.

The committee trusts his request has already been complied with.

No. 12 and 13. Contain reports from Mr. Stoewer to the Revd. president. The committee offer no motion on the same, as they take it for granted, that in accordance with our constitution, the president has already granted his petition.

No. 14. Contains a letter from the Revd. Charles Augustus Gribler offering the Synod his services as missionary. Mr. Gribler is unknown to the Committee; his letter breathes such a christian spirit, as to induce your Committee to recommend to the Synod, to remember him, when the sending forth of missionary shall come under consideration.

The consideration of this letter was deferred to the meeting of the missionary society.

The fourth committee now reported through Pastor Fr. Ruthrauff, as following.

No. 15 and 16. Contain a petition from M. L. Posthauer, at present in Jonesboro, Union Co. Illinois, that the Secretrry of this Synod might send him a License, and also remarks, that he is labouring there as Pastor, and hopes, with the divine blessing, to be able to accomplish much good.

On motion of Mr. Becker it was

Resolved: That the petition of Mr. Posthauer be granted,

No. 17 18 and 19. Contain three letters from attorney Fisher and Dr. Brown, to the president, concerning the institution of Frey in Middletown, asking for a teacher for the same. The committee move that a special committee be appointed to examine this concern.

On motion of Dr. Demme it was

Resolved: That the Synod rejoices, that there are prospects of the

accomplishment of the will of Mr. Frey, that Mr. Finkel is appointed teacher and that the Synod will support this institution as much as lies in their power.

No. 20. Contains a letter from Revd. Mr. Fuchs, in Bath, Northampton county, excusing his absence from the Synod in consequence of family affliction and transmits his parochial report.

Resolved: That Mr. Fuchs be excused.

No. 21. Contains a letter from Mr. Dœring excusing his non-attendance upon Synod and reports the demise of our brother Wartman, on the 22nd of January. He also states, that contention has arisen in the destitute congregations, in consequence of his having again taken charge of them and that his friends desire him to continue to preach for them. It is probable that other documents in referrence to this matter, will be brought forward, by other committees, which may render the reading of this letter necessary and expedient.

On motion of Mr. Meendsen, it was

Resolved: That Mr. Dœring be excused.

On motion of Mr. Bætis, seconded by Mr. Meendsen, it was

Resolved: That the consideration of this letter be postponed until the report of succeeding committees.

On motion of Dr. Demme, it was

Resolved: That it is with heartfelt sympathy, we hear the report of the death of our brother Wartman, we hope as brethren, that his death may have been to him, an entrance into the joy of his and our Lord.

This session was closed with prayer, by brother C. Miller.

This evening Dr. Meyer preached from Jud. 1, 3.

Third Session.

Tuesday Morning, 9 o'clock.

After the session was opened by prayer from brother Merz, it was

Resolved: That the President appoint a committee to examine and report on the minutes of last session.

The brethren Reynolds, Gross and G. Jæger were appointed on this committee.

Pastor Abele now reported in the name of the 5th committee:

No. 22. Is a document from the vestry of Pennsalems-Church in East Penn township, Northampton county, directed to this Revd. Synod, in which said vestry complain of Revd. Mark Herpel, because, that, after he had accepted a call from said congregation, he relinquished it again, without assigning any sufficient reason. At the same time they petition the Synod, to send them a competent minister so soon as practicable.

Finally, they refer to Messrs. Meendsen and G. Jæger as competent to

impart any further information that may be desired in reference to the condition of their congregation.

On motion of Revd. J. Miller, it was

Resolved: That any brother of our connection, is permitted to minister to this congregation.

No. 23. Contains a letter of thanks from Mr. Thomas Haddon in the name of the Evangelic-Lutheran Congregation in Germantown, in which their gratitude is expressed to the Synod for having acknowledged and received their congregation into their connection. The hope is also expressed in said document, that the congregation referred to, will walk as a christian congregation; and the prayer is offered, that this Revd. Synod will permit their present Pastor, Mr. Scholl, to continue his labors amongst them.

The Synod is pleased with the grateful acknowledgements of this congregation and pray that the divine blessing may rest upon them and their Pastor.

No. 24. Is a letter from Mr. George Heim in Venango County, to Revd. J. Miller, whom he requests to present his letter to the Synod. In said letter Mr. Heim remarks that he has collected into a congregation several families scattered through Venango County; preaches to them and performs all other ministerial acts with good results; he wishes that his name might be remembered in our Minutes and if this petition be granted, he asks for a copy of them, to be forwarded to him.

On motion of Pastor German, it was

Resolved: That for the present time the Synod cannot grant this petition, because Mr. Heim did not appear at the Synod and on account of the absence of satisfactory testimonials.

No. 25. Is a certificate of dismission from the President of the West-Pennsylvania Synod, the Revd. Wm. Jæger, agreeably to which, Revd. Jonathan Ruthrauff is honorably dismissed as a member of that connection.

Resolved: That the same be received.

The Report of the sixth committee was now handed in by Pastor Reichard.

No. 26. Contains a letter from brother Stecher, excusing his non-attendance at the Synod, on account of sickness in his family; forwarding three dollars for the Synodical Treasury and 2 dollars for the missionary Treasury, accompanied by his parochial report.

Resolved: That Mr. Stecher be excused.

No. 27. Is a letter from Mr. Sprecher, in which he states that he had received the intelligence of his mother's dangerous illness, hence asks the Synod to excuse his absence and to renew his license.

Resolved: That Mr. Sprecher's request be granted and he excused.

No. 28. Is a letter from the church-councils of the Revd. Mr. Stœver, in which they declare their satisfaction with their present Pastor and pray for his ordination.

Resolved: That the consideration of this petition be postponed until the ministerial session.

No. 29. Contains the minutes of the West-Pennsylvania Synod at Lewistown, on which it is remarked:

1. That Mr. G. Schuetz appeared there as delegate from this Synod and was received in a friendly manner as a corresponding member

2. That Mr. Lochman was appointed as delegate to this Synod.

3. That it was resolved in that body to transmit the usual number of their synodical proceedings to this Synod.

Resolved: That this report be received.

The seventh committee now presented their report by Mr. G. Jæger viz. That they had examined the minutes presented to them for inspection.

From the minutes of the Synod of New York it appears, that our delegate Mr. Medtart attended, was kindly received, and that Dr. Meyer was appointed as a delegate from that Synod to ours.!

The English Evangelic Lutheran Synod of Ohio voted 10 copies of their Minutes to our Synod, and expressed the wish that we might reciprocate the favor.

In the proceedings of the German Synod we discover nothing, that has reference to ours.

On motion of Mr. Baker
Resolved: That this report be accepted.

The eighth committee reported by Mr. Hæsbæt as follows:
No. 30. Are the minutes of the Synod of the West, which contain nothing in reference to this Synod, except a resolution, that their minutes be forwarded to each Sister-Synod.

No. 31. Are the minutes of the Eastern district of the Synod of Ohio, 1835, from which we discover that candidate Jehle, formerly in connection with this Synod, was received as a member of that body.

No. 32. Are the minutes of the Maryland Synod, which contain nothing in reference to this Synod.

This report was accepted.

Pastor C. Miller closed the third session with prayer.

Fourth Session.

Tuesday after-noon, 3 *o'clock*.

This session was opened with prayer by Revd. Fr. Ruthrauff.

Report of a special Committee.

1. A letter from Revd. G. Heilig, excusing himself for non-attendance on account of sickness is his family, and transmitting 10 dollars for missionary Treasury. He states that besides this, he has collected 3 dollars for the synodical Treasury, which he will forward by the first opportunity.

2. Twelve copies of the proceedings of the Ohio Synod, in which there is no referrence had to this Synod. It appears from them however, that with theconsent of this Synod, there was established an EnglishLutheran Synod in Ohio.

W. M. REYNOLDS.
C. F. WELDEN.

Resolved: That this report be accepted and that Mr. Heilig be excused.

Resolved: That six copies of the minutes of our last synodical session be forwarded to each Seminary of our church.

On motion of Pastor J. Miller

Resolved: That seven hundred copies of our minutes be printed in the German and three hundred in the English language and that Pastor F. Ruthrauff translate the minutes into the English language.

There was a letter from Professor Smith presented, excusing himself for his absence on account of sickness in his family.

On motion of brother Becker

Resolved: That Professor Smith be excused.

The committee, appointed to take into consideration the publication of a religious periodical, in the German language and to make report, were now discharged from their duties, by resolution and the consideration of the subject brought before the Synod.

On motion of the Secretary, seconded by Dr. Demme,

Resolved: That the President appoint a committee, to examine the Records of the Synod since 1813 and to collect or compare with each other, all resolutions made since that time and report the same at our next synodical meeting.

The committee appointed for that purpose consists of the President and the Secretary of the Synod, Professor Schmidt and Pastors J. Jæger and Probst.

The committee which examined the Missionary Report of Revd. Ezra Keller, reported:

That brother Ezra Keller travelled through the states of Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. He traversed an extensive tract of country and visited many destitute and solitary German Settlements, which were peopled as well by foreign emigrants, as natives. The committee believes, that he was deeply interested in his charge and faithfully performed the duties of a Missionary. Yet he labored only six months, instead of seven, according to the instructions of the executive committee. The reason of this abbreviation of his time is: he, as well as his horse, were worn out by the length of his journey, the unfavorable weather and impassable roads. He travelled about 3,000 miles, preached eighty times, held many prayer-meetings, baptized 24 children, confirmed one, administered the sacrament of the Lord's supper to thirty and collected $38, 56 cents—He recommends to this Revd. Synod, in future not to assign too extensive a field of labor to their Missionaries. He further advises the Synod to pay special attention to the state of Missouri, because, as he believes, there are yet many members of our communion living there, of whom, as yet, we have no knowledge.

J. MEDTARD.
H. S. MILLER.
G. M. MERTZ.
C. W. SCHÆFFER.
P. SCHEURER.

The Synod now adjourned after a prayer from J. Jæger.

This evening the ministers and congregation assembled in church,

where, agreeably to a resolution of the Missionary-Society, missionary addresses were to be delivered. The President of the Missionary Society commenced the solemn services of the evening by singing a hymn, and a prayer—and after the Revd. Messrs. Keller, Medtard, Dr. Demme and Hæsbæert had delivered appropriate and eloquent addresses on the subject of spreading abroad the Gospel of Christ, the assembly was dismissed with a blessing.

Fifth Session.

Wednesday Morning, 9 oclock.

The session was opened with singing and a prayer by brother Abele.

The Legacy of Streit first engaged the attention of the Synod.

On motion of Dr. Meyer, it was

Resolved: That the Synod respectfully solicit the Revd. President, to remit the debt of the Missionary Society, created by the loan out of the monies, accruing from the Streitean Legacy.

On motion of Dr. Meyer, seconded by brother Becker, Resolved

That this Synod recommends to the Germans of this country as a useful undertaking, a German translation of the Works of Josephus, which are being printed by Messrs. Kimber and Sharpless and that the Synod has full confidence in the ability and care of the editor of the same.

On motion of brother Becker, it was

Resolved: That so soon as the interest of the Streitean Legacy arrives from Europe, 100 dollars be paid to the German congregation, called Zions Church in Lancaster.

On motion of brother Ulrich

Resolved: That Zions Church in Tulpehocken Township, in Berks Co. be allowed 50 dollars out of the same Legacy, so soon as the interest arrives. Again it was

Resolved: That the same sum be given each of the congregations that applied to the Synod last year, for aid.

Mr. Jones, colored preacher of the Evangelical Lutheran congregation in Philadelphia, appeared before Synod, described the condition of said congregation, and solicited aid for the same.

After the condition of said congregation was maturely considered, the Synod expressed a willingness to assist this congregation, provided Mr. Jones be willing to secure to said congregation, by deed, the right to the lot and Church thereon, which at present is wholly in his hands.

Therefore on motion of Professor Reynolds,

Resolved: That a committee be appointed and authorized to confer with Mr. Jones, in reference to the transfer to the Synod of the right

thereto, to give the Synod a written declaration to that effect. The committee consists of the Revd. Messrs. Medtard, Becker, and Dr. Fr. Wm. Heckel.

This session was closed with prayer by brother Meendsen.

Sixth Session,

Wednesday after-noon, 3 o'clock.

Brother Merz opened the session with prayer.

The committee that was authorized to confer with Mr. Jones, colored preacher of the Evangelical Lutheran congregation in Philadelphia, reports.

That they held a long conference with Mr, Jones, and that he is not willing on any just conditions to transfer the right of property, of said Church ; therefore it was

Resolved : That so soon as said right and title shall be transferred, to the satisfaction of the officers of the Synod, 100 dollars shall be paid over to that congregation.

Report of a special Committee consisting of brother Abele.

This is a letter from Middletown of the 20th inst. signed by twelve members of the Evangelical Lutheran congregation of that place, and directed to the president of this Synod. Those persons complain, because, religious fanaticism, of an intolerable nature had arisen in their congregation, and manifests itself in their religious meetings. At the same time, they state, in what way, it originated and increased. They further state, that the absurdity of this fanaticism has been urged on to the greatest extreme, and that as well on this account, as also on account of an irregular election from Church officers, which was conducted by Mr. Sahm, confusion and injury, have taken place in the congregation. And lastly they most earnestly pray this Revd. Synod, to give their complaints a hearing, and to oppose those evils with energy.

J. F. ABELE.

On motion of Dr. Demme it was

Resolved : That an answer be given those persons who wrote said letter, and that this answer be prepared by the Revd. Senior. It was further

Resolved : That a committee be appointed, who shall visit the congregation of Mr. Sahm, and examine into the state of the same and report at our next Synod.

President Hecht, Senior Bætis and Pastor Becker constitute this committee.

A letter from Revd. Mr. Dœring was now laid before the Synod and after the contents of the letter were considered, on motion of the secretary and seconded by Mr. Meendsen, it was

Resolved: That the president appoint a committee, which shall visit and examine into the the state of Jordan congregation, and lay before it the above resolution of the Synod. The committee appointed for said purpose consists of Revd. Messrs. Meendsen, J. Jæger and Rœller, jr.

The committee which was appointed to audit the Treasurers account reported:

That they examined his account and found it correct, viz: That the amount of all the monies he received, amount to three hundred and forty five dollars and sixty one cents; and that his disbursements amount to three hundred and forty dollars and sixty cents; leaving in the hands of the Treasurer five dollars, which however is counterfeit-money. The committee move, that the same be destroyed.

WM. BÆTIS.
C. W. SCHÆFFER.
F. W. HECKEL.

This report was accepted.

Brother Schæffer asked permission of absence from the Synod, which was granted.

The Synod now held an election for the place and time of their next annual Convention.

The delegate from the congregation of Philadelphia, in a friendly manner invited the Synod in the name of that congregation, to meet in Philadelphia.

The Synod also received a friendly invitation by Revd. Jno. Ruthrauff from the congregation in Lebanon.

By a majority of votes, Philadelphia was appointed as the place and Trinity fast as the time, for our synodical convention.

On motion of the Secretary it was

Resolved: That theSynod will meet in the School-house this evening, in order to transact business.

Synod was adjourned with prayer by brother F. Ruthrauff.

Seventh Session.

Wednesday evening, 7½ o'clock.

The Secretary opened the session with prayer.

The affair of Franklin College was now taken in consideration.

Mr. Keffer arose and lamented, that this institution did not enlist more care and zeal &c.

On motion of the Secretary, seconded by Dr. Meyers it was

Resolved: That a committee be appointed, to examine, in the interim the condition of Franklin College, and report at our next Synod.

Further it was

Resolved: That the same committee be authorized to send a petition to the state Legislature, to grant the prayer of the Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania, in reference to this institution, viz: That every measure might be adopted, in order to attain the object of the original founders of this institution; and that it is the duty of every Minister of our connection in case of necessity, to get up petitions in their congregations and send them to the Legislature.

The following brethren were appointed as delegates to sister Synods.

Revd. J. Miller, delegate to New York Synod.

Revd. Mr. Abele, delegate to West Pennsylvania Synod and Revd. J. Schindel delegate to the German Reformed Synod.

The subject of a German Periodical was now again discussed, and after several brethren had expressed their opinions, on motion of Mr. Hæsbert it was

Resolved: That the Synod consider the monthly publication of such a paper necessary, and that the Revd. Mr. Peixotto be appointed to edit it.

On motion of Dr. Demme it was further

Resolved: That it is made the duty of each minister of our connection, to exert himself, as mush as possible to extend the circulation of said paper.

On motion of Revd. P. Miller

Resolved: That Revd. Peixotto be requested to publish the first number of this periodical so soon as possible, and to forward several copies to each minister, in order that every minister may have an opportunity, as early as possible, to collect subscribers, and to forward them to Mr. Peixotto; so that it may be ascertained, whether a sufficient number can be procured, to justify its continuance.

The session was closed with prayer by Brother Bernheim.

Brother Medtart preached this evening in the English Language.

Eighth Session.

The Revd. Senior opened this session with prayer.

Report of a Special Committee.

The committee, to which several letters were given in reference to Mr. Minnig reported as follows.

1. Is a letter from the members of the council of the congregation in

Pinegrove, Schuylkill Co. in which they describe their deplorable condition, and ask the Synod to send them a minister, who is able to preach in the German and English language. They also held out prospects to such a minister, that several other congregations might be added to the district.

2, A letter, subscribed by five members of the Council of the congregation in Pinegrove and of two members of the Council of James Church in Schuylkill Co. in which they express themselves as not satisfied with the proceedings of the last Synod, in reference to Mr. Minnig. Again, there are also some complaints urged, in the same, against Mr. Minnig, which were, in part, brought against him at our last annual meeting and acted upon.

The committee is of opinion, that the Synod should not take into further consideration the contents of the German letter, as the same matter has already been before the Synod.

J. JÆGER.
JOS. GROSS.
J. RŒLLER. Jr.
FR. EMHARDT.
C. PRETZ.

On motion of Revd. J. Miller

Resolved : That any brother of our connection is permitted to visit and to take charge of said congregations.

On motion of Dr. Demme

Resolved : That each minister in making a report of his annual ministerial acts, also give an account of any institutions in his congregations for the promotion of the objects of Christianity.

PAROCHIAL REPORTS

as far as they were furnished this year by the Ministers of our connection.

Names of the Clergymen.	Cong.	Bapt.	Conf.	Com.	Buried.	Schools
Pastor Hecht	1	93	38	435	23	1
J. Miller	5	212	77	623	54	5
D. Ulrich	7	140	106	1003	40	6
Ernst	6	190	58	669	37	5
Bætis	1	35	—	112	3	1
Meendsen	6	136	57	1054	50	8
Becker	1	131	32	328	58	2
Hemping	8	171	83	849	34	5
Schindel, sen.	8	187	87	1427	32	3
Wartman and Dœring	5	125		302	35	5
Strem	4	70		154	17	1
C. Miller	7	260	155	1570	86	7
Stecher	4	50	44	375	30	3
Trumbauer	4	150	78	488	26	4
German	4	148	118	1089	21	4
Doctor Demme	1	283	47	1134	110	5
Pastor Fr. Ruthrauff	4	36	29	440	29	1
G. Jæger	9	135	60	904	47	10
Abele	4	80	26	430	16	4
Reichert	1	78	51	458	40	2
Minnig. sen		160	40	402	56	3
Wampold	5	65	65	510	30	2
Kemmerer	4	103	27	605	26	
J. Jæger	4	212	69	949	55	4
Gross	6	101		407	21	1
J. Rœller, jr.	7	163	80	642	50	6
Schuetz	6	115	12	418	18	
J. Schindel	8	147	157	1027	34	4
Herpel	5	63	[illegible]	400	17	3
Bernheim	3	71	[illegible]	264	37	3
Hæsbert	1	96	[illegible]	880	36	2
Medtart	1	12	[illegible]	120	6	1
Welden	4	78		356	13	4
Fuchs	2	116	52	206	14	
Sahm	2	15	14	220	30	
Barnitz	1	17	18	357	5	1
C. W. Schæffer	2	47	19	70	17	1
Professor Schmidt	1	19		41	6	1
Reynolds	1		20	42	5	1
Pastor Mertz	1	68	6	153	17	1
Stœwer	7	134	34	632	41	6
Candidate Scholl	1	9	6	74	7	1
Minnig	7	187	35	816	47	10
Total	169	4708	1887	23435	975	139

CONTRIBUTIONS.

Names of the Clergymen.	Synod.	Missions.
Pastor Stecher	$3 00	$2 00
Stein	00	15 00
Ernst	2 00	3 00
Heilig		10 00
Ulrich		23 38
H. S. Miller	9 00	20 00
Hæsbært	5 00	
Hemping	7 00	6 50
Welden	3 00	18 25
Harrisburg Congregation	5 00	50 00
Female Missionary Society of St. Mathews church at Philadelphia		50 00
Pastor Jon. Ruthrauff	5 00	6 00
Sahm	3 60	23 40
J. Jæger		42 85
Wampold	5 00	11 00
Gross	4 00	
Philadelphia Congregation	40 00	
Pastor Fr. Ruthrauff	3 33	50 00
Philadelphia Society of the Propogation of the Gospel		60 00
Pastor Minnig, sen		5 00
Herpel		15 50
Minnig, jr	1 00	42 31½
Bernheim	5 00	23 62
Rœller, jr		5 00
Stœwer	3 75	5 00
C. Miller	5 00	10 00
Bætis	3 25	3 25
Strein		7 00
Becker	10 00	
Abele		21 12½
C. P. Miller	2 00	8 00
Barnitz		5 00
Doctor L. Meyers Congregation at Philadelphia		50 00
Mission Soc. of St. Michaels church at Germantown		30 00
Pastor Reichert	5 00	
Schæffer		5 00
Professor Schmidt		5 00
Pastor Meendsen		5 18
Trumbauer		21 33
Lancaster Congregation		23 06
Auxilary to the Mission Society at Lancaster		20 00
Pastor German	17 44	28 86
Merz		5 12½
Bætis for Proceedings	1 37½	
Kæmmerer	3 00	4 00
Schindel, sen		68 00
Missionary Society of the Lutheran Synod		36 00
Total	151 74½	843 74½

The synodical business being now transacted; and after the president had dismissed the Lay-delegates with thanks for their services and a hearty desire for their safe return to their families,

THE MINISTERIUM

immediately opened its session and received from the President of the examining Committee the following report:

The examining committee respectfully reports:

That Messrs. Frederick Minner and Jacob Duy were regularly examined and found furnished with a good degree of knowledge in Hebrew and Greek, as also in the other branches of Theology.

The committee therefore propose to this Reverend Ministerium, that these brethren be received as candidates.

C. R. DEMME.
JOHN C. BECKER.
WILLIAM BÆTIS.
CONRAD MILLER.
JOHN FR. ABELE.
FREDERICK WAAGE.

On motion of the Secretary, supported by J. Miller,

Resolved: That the above mentioned report be accepted and the Messrs. Minner and Duy be received into this Ministerium as candidates.

After the subject of the ordination of the candidates was discoursed on, it was, on motion of J. Miller,

Resolved: That Mr. Sprecher be ordained by the officers of the Synod in his own church, in Harrisburg and at the time fixed by the officers themselves.

On motion of Dr. Demme. it was

Resolved: That Mr. Scholl be ordained and that the ordination take place this evening; should Mr. Scholl however prefer being ordained in his own church, the ordination shall take place after our next synodical meeting, in the expectation that existing circumstances will then have been changed.

Resolved: That 20 dollars be given to each Ministers widow.

On motion of the Secretary, seconded by pastor J. Miller, it was

Resolved: That brother Scheurer receive $50 out of the Rœdelsheim Legacy.

Resolved: That brothers Bernheim, Merz and Minner receive the same sum each.

As the business of the Ministerium was now finished, the convention

sang a hymn to the praise of God and in prayer and supplication to the Lord, the brethren seperated in love and hope.

Oh Jesus Christ! Thy truth is everlasting! Thy kingdom is an eternal kingdom! Kingdoms and nations pass away; but thy kingdom, which is not of this world, passeth not away. Our 's the bliss and thine the glory, that we are citizens of thy kingdom. Our 's the bliss and thine the praise, that also for us thy blood was shed on Calvary! Let all the world and all ends of the earth, and all that are named after thee, yield their praise, and honor, and gratitude, and love, and eternal fidelity. Oh Lord, permit us also to contribute, that by our words and instructions and example, thy kingdom may be advanced more and more in our congregations; for in thy kingdom alone, are true peace and life, and felicity to be found. Therefore do we most importunately pray: *To us may thy kingdom come!* Amen.

That this is a true record of the Synodical and Ministerial transactions, had at Lancaster, May 21st, 1837, and the subsequent days, is testified by

BENJAMIN GERMAN, *Secretary.*

MINUTES OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Agreeably to a resolution of the directors of the Society of the Synod of Pennsylvania, for spreading the Gospel, it is reported:

That the members of said Society, (which now amount to 61) in accordance with their constitution, met in Lancaster, in order to transact business, May 16th, 1837.

After the meeting was opened with prayer by the President, Revd. Bætis, the executive Committee reported:

That they had appointed the Revd. candidate Ezra Keller missionary in the last year, to travel in the States of Indiana, Missouri and Illinois and to preach to the scattered members of our Church, the word of life, to baptize their children, to administer the holy communion and in general to be as useful to them as possible; with the injunction to appear at our present Synodical meeting, in order to make a written report of his missionary labors to this Society.—Accepted.

On motion

Resolved: That for the sake of convenience, in future the Treasurer of the Synod shall also be the Treasurer of this Society.

The President now stated that the time of service of the officers was expired and that it was consequently necessary to elect new officers for the ensuing year. Upon which the officers of last year were re-elected, viz

Pastor W. BÆTIS, President.
J. P. HECHT, Vice-President.
C. MILLER, Secretary.
F. RUTHRAUFF, Cor. Secr.

As Directors for the ensuing year, the Revd. Messrs. Becker, Demme, Medtart, Merz, H. S. Miller and Messrs. F. W. Heckel, M. Keller, C. Schrack, F. Emhart, C. Hager and J. Lane, were elected.

Resolved: That the hearty thanks of this Society be tendered to the Missionary Society of St. Johns Church in Philadelphia, for their cordial interest in, and support of this benevolent work.

Resolved: That the Revd. Messrs. Medtart and Schæffer and Dr. Heckel be appointed delegates of this Society, to attend the Missionary Convention, which is to meet at Hagerstown, and to assure them of our cordial co-operation in spreading the Gospel.

Resolved: That this evening the Revd. Messrs. Demme, Hæsbert, Medtart and Keller, deliver short addresses in the German and English languages, to this Society, as well as to the congregation, on the subject of spreading the Gospel.

Resolved: That the Executive commttee appoint the number, time, field and pay of Missionaries the ensuing year.

Resolved: That brother Medtart make an extract from the Missionary report, handed in by Mr. Keller, that Dr. Demme translate the same into the German language, and that it be printed, as supplement, with our synodical minutes.

Resolved: That this Society kindly ask the Synod to remit the debt which this Society contracted last year.

Resolved: That the Revd. Messrs. Hecht and H. S. Miller be a committee to examine the account of our last Treasurer.

Adjourned with prayer.

On Wednesday evening the directors held a meeting, in order to elect their executive committee: at which the Revd. Messrs. Becker, Merz and Mr. Hæger, in connection with the officers, were elected.

Resolved: That the expenses which this Society incurs in printing their Missionary report, as well as their minutes, be defrayed out of their Treasury.

Resolved: That the executive committee be authorized, in case they deem it expedient, to devote 150 dollars to the spreading of the Gospel amongst the Heathens. That the above was transacted in Lancaster is testified by

C. MILLER, *Secretary.*

May the Lord Jesus Christ, who is theHead of his Church, and desires, that all men might be saved by faith in Him, may he give his blessing to all that this society has done, or may in future do, in order that it may contribute much, very much, to the glory of his great name, and the salvation of many thousand souls. Amen.

MISSIONARY REPORT

OF

EZRA KELLER.

Fathers and brethren!

In obedience to the instructions of the Executive Committee of your Missionary Society, directing me to give your reverend body an account of my travels and ministerial labors whilst employed as your Missionary, I beg leave respectfully to submit the following report.

Your executive committee directed to commence my tour at the close of September 1836 and continue in the states of Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, so long as would give me sufficient time to meet the Synod on Trinity Sunday, thus assigning me about seven months to labor as your Missionary. But for various reasons and particularly that I might return a few weeks before the meeting of the Synod, I entered upon my journey in the beginning, instead of the close of September.

The first week I arrived at Wheeling, on the Ohio river, a town of considerable commercial importance, with a population of about eight thousand. In this place there are about six hundred Germans, mostly Protestants. These people are under the pastoral care of Revd. J. Swartz. They have heretofore worshipped in a School-house; but have already commenced a spacious brick church and are making active exertions to have it finished. With this congregation there is connected a flourishing Sunday-School. The Pastor seems to be a man of much devotedness and activity, and is evidently doing much good among this people. Here I preached in the morning, in the German language, in the after-noon in the Methodist Episcopal Church in the english language. In Wheeling I also became acquainted with a few English families of Lutherans, in one of which I baptized an infant. These people are anxious that an English Lutheran congregation should be organized in the place.

The second week I reached Circleville, Ohio, where I stopped to spend the Sabbath. Here I met our worthy brother J. Roof, for whom I preached thrice and delivered an address to his interesting Sabbath-School. I also became acquainted with a number of our brethren of Ohio. All received and treated me with great kindness and seemed to be much gratified that the Synod of Pennsylvania was endeavoring to supply the wants of our members in the west.

The third week I went by way of Chilicothe and Cincinatti to Hopeful church, in Boon County, Kentucky, where the Synod was in session. I was anxious to meet this body, in order to obtain all the information I could respecting my field of labor. Having spent a few days with the brethren of this synod and preached several times, I departed before they had adjourned and travelled through a thinly inhabited country, directing my course towards Louisville. I stopped on my way at Jefferson and spent a Sabbath with Mr. Jæger, for whom I preached thrice. It was a communion season and one of great solemnity and interest. The protestant Germans of Louisville are under the pastoral charge of Revd. G. H. Brandan. Here I did not stop to preach but passed on to New Albany, where I crosed the Ohio and entered the state of Indiana.

The first place at which I arrived was Rockford, in Jackson County, where I found a settlement of Swiss of about fifteen families. Most of them have been living here three or four years, and more are expected to settle in the neighborhood. They are generally piously disposed; but have no one to break unto them the bread of life. They are exceedingly desirous to have a minister, who would preach statedly and catechise their children. I remained with them several days, preached once and visited some families who were sick. What is very commendable in these people, is, that they are in the habit of meeting every Sabbath for divine worship, where a few hymns are sung and one reads the church service. They requested me to tender their sincere thanks to the Synod for the visit and service of your Missionary, and also entreat you to consider their condition.

From this place I proceeded northward into Shelby County, where I was told were some destitute congregations. But before I reached there I heard they were under the pastoral care of Revd. A. Miller, so I passed on into Marion County. Here, four miles north of Indianapolis I met with Revd. A. Reck, a venerable father in our Zion, who, after having long labored to build up the church in the east, emigrated in the spring of 1836 into this state, with a view of doing something in his masters cause in this great valley. He has already organized a congregation in his immediate neighborhood of about fifty members. They have put up a comfortable house for divine worship in sight of their pastors dwelling. Here I had the pleasure of being with him at his first communion. Sixteen were confirmed and about fifty united in partaking of the Lords supper. At this place I preached thrice and baptized one. It was a season of great interest to the members and of novelty to many spectators, it being the first time these ordinances were administered in this neighborhood.

I next visited a settlement of European Germans, 12 miles east of Indianapolis, of about twenty families. They are generally in good circumstances and some of them well educated, but as to religion they seem to be in a deplorable condition. I felt a great desire to preach for them and made application to that effect, but they seemed to be reluctant to hear me except on the Sabbath, and the reason they gave me was: that they could not spare the time. And as I had an appointment for the Sabbath at another place, I was compelled to leave them, after

having travelled many miles through rainy weather, over bad roads and encountering high waters, without being permitted to preach one Sermon. This was painful to my mind and a strong evidence that they need some one to lead them in the path of duty. Their condition is indeed deplorable. Their children are growing up without religious instructions and are likely to become as wild as the country in which they live.

The next neighborhood I visited was sixteen miles north of Indianapolis, near Germantown. There live about thirty members of our church from different states in the Union. I preached for these people in a private house. They are visited occasionally by Mr. Reck, who will perhaps soon form them into a congregation.

From this place I went into a German settlement in Hamilton County, five miles west of white river. In this neighborhood live about twelve Lutheran families, originally from Pennsylvania, and many who are of German descent, but not members of the church. This settlement is quite new; the people have no chairs, not even benches. They appear however to be hungry for the bread of life and receive it with a ready mind. I preached to them with great satisfaction in a little cabin and afterwards baptized two infants. I had reason to believe that the truth made a deep impression on their minds. Many tears flowed and they appeared to be very anxious to obtain a minister and promised to put up a house for worship, if they could obtain some one to teach them.

From this settlement I returned to Indianapolis, and on my way preached in the evening at Abbesville. In Indianapolis I preached to a small congregation, which has recently been organized by Mr. Reck.

Another settlement I visited in Marion County, is on Little Eagle creek. Here are about 12 families of Lutherans, all of whom can understand the English language. To these people I preached in a private house.

From this I went to Boon County, where I found a number of Lutherans from east Tennessee settled about six miles south-east of Lebanon. These people have been visited occasionally by Revd. E. Henkel, a member of the Indiana Synod, who speaks of taking up his residence among them. I preached to them in a cabin. In the afternoon I rode to Lebanon, where I preached in the evening to a large and attentive audience in the court-house. I found one member of our church here from North Carolina, who was much pleased to hear a minister of his own faith. The roads in this part of the country I found so exceedingly muddy that I could not travel more than ten or twelve miles a day.

From Lebanon I proceeded in a northwestern direction through Boon and Montgomery Counties. Stopping over night in a little town called Columbia and enquiring for a place to preach, the bar-room of my host was offered—here I spoke to the people. From this place I went on to Bauer's settlement, which is composed of Pennsylvania and European Germans, who, I was informed, were Lutherans. But I found most of them to be of Mennonite descent and belonging to no church. I was told that about twelve families of Lutherans originally lived here; but

some have removed and others have joined other churches, so that there are but few Lutherans remaining. These people had never been visited by a Lutheran minister until I came among them. I preached to them twice in a private house.

The next place I visited was Lafayette, a flouishing town on the Wabash. Here I found about seven members of our church, who despair of getting a minister and now speak of uniting with other churches. May God raise up laborers for our people. I would here remark that since I left Indiana, I met with a Gentleman, a citizen of Logansport, Bass County, who informed me, that in this place were many European Germans, who are protestants. These should be visited.

From Lafayette I went down the Wabash to a little place called Attica, which I reached on the 12th of November. Here I found it necessary for myself and my horse to rest a short time. At Attica I found twelve members of the Lutheran and about an equal number of the Reformed church, chiefly from Maryland. During my stay here I preached six times—visited all the members at their houses and preached once in the neighborhood. At Attica a minister is much needed and desired. The people are willing to receive one either of the Lutheran or Reformed Church. They are hungry for the bread of life and care not who breaks it unto them.

From this place I went to Perryville, a beautiful town on the Wabash. In this place and its vicinity I found fifteen members of the Lutheran and a few families of the German Reformed church. I remained with them a week,—preached four times—visited most of them at their houses and baptized two infants. Most of those people are from Ohio, are wealthy, are anxious to hear a minister and would contribute liberally to his support. Perryville is situated in one of the finest parts of the state, is growing fast, has but one organized church and would be a fine situation for a Lutheran Minister. No German is needed at this place nor at Attica. While at this place, I heard of a settlement of Lutherans in Fountain County, but could not visit them in consequence of bad roads and high waters.

From Perryville I intended to go to Chicago on lake Michigan, where there are many Germans; but the roads were so bad and the weather becoming so severe, that I thought it best, after having obtained advice from others, not to venture on this journey. I therefore crossed the grant Prairie and touched on the Illinois river at Fort Clark. This was the most wearisome journey I made in my whole tour. It was of six days length across the Prairies of Illinois, which are so extensive and bleak, that the violence of the wind and the intensity of the cold are almost insupportable during the winter months. Sometimes for twelve and twenty miles, the traveller sees no house, nor tree, nor shrub, nothing but a vast extensive plain, on which wanders the lonely Wolf and the beautiful Deer.

The first settlement of Lutherans I found in Illinois, is seven miles north of Peoria, on Farm Creek. In this neighborhood there are about sixty families of European Germans, twelve of whom are Lutherans and the rest Mennonites. These people were visited by Revd. Mr. Hyer, in the Spring of 1836. I continued with them five days,

visited most of the families, preached twice, confirmed one, administered the Lords supper to twenty-nine and baptized four infants. These people were hungry for the bread of life and it was pleasant to break it unto them. On both days the Lord was evidently with us and blessed his ordinances and the preaching of his word to those that enjoyed them. These people formerly met on the Sabbath for divine worship; but this excellent practice they have relinquished. They wish their thanks to be given to the Synod, for the kindness which has been manifested in ministering their spiritual wants, and they earnestly petition for more ministerial aid.

From this I went fourteen miles farther north, where I found about fifteen members of our church on Blue creek, some Europeans and Virginians. With these people I remained two days, preached twice in a cabin, administered the Lords supper to eleven persons, and baptized three infants. This settlement had never before been visited by a German minister.

While here, I heard of more members of our church. Black Partridge, Henepin and Attawa, are said to be settlements of Lutherans; and at the latter place I was credibly informed there are upwards of a hundred members. These people are very anxious to have a minister. I would have visited them had it not been so late in the season. But the weather and roads were such at this time that it would have been dangerous for a stranger to attempt the journey. I therefore resolved to go south and first visited Peoria, a flourishing town, situated at the mouth of a lake of the same name. In this place I found about twenty communicant members of our church, who had never been visited by a Missionary. I continued among them one week; preached five times and baptized two infants. If a Minister would locate in this place he could preach for the settlements above mentioned, and thus would have a large field of labour and of usefulness. Into this part of the state many Germans will yet emigrate, and therefore it is important that these people should be attended to.

From this place I travelled twenty miles south-east and reached a German settlement on the Mackinaw river, eight miles from Pekin.— I arrived here about the 20th of December. The weather became suddenly so excessive cold, that I had to continue two weeks in this neighborhood. During this time I found fourteen members, all Europeans. I preached for them five times, baptized six infants and administered the Lords supper to nine persons. These people greatly need the constant preaching of the Gospel, for the majority are very indifferent about their Salvation.

I next visited Beardstown, on the Illinois river. It was now the 7th of January. In this place and its neighborhood there are about two hundred and fifty Germans, mostly protestants. Here I unexpectedly met the Revd. W. Bolenius from West Pennsylvania, who came to this place last July and has organized two congregations to which he now attends. Wickedness abounds here to an alarming extent. The Sabbath I was there, four hundred hogs were slaughtered and this I have been told is of frequent occurrence. I hope and pray our dear brethren will do all they can to save these people from thier immorali-

ty and wickedness. I continued here but two days and preached twice.

I now left the Illinois river and visited Quincy on the Mississippi.— This town and its vicinity have about sixty families of European Germans, mostly protestants. They are like many others in the west entirely destitute of Gospel ordinances, though they are a people who rightly appreciate and value the privileges of religion and greatly desire the stated means of grace. They were much deceived last summer by a certain Mr. Hohnholtz, who came among them in the garb of a Lutheran Minister. They received him with open arms, supposing him to be what he professed. But it was soon discovered that he was a notorius drunkard and liar, and by his wicked deeds he brought himself into prison. He is still strolling through the west, a deceiver of the people. With the people of Quincy I spent ten days, visited most families, preached six times, delivered a lecture on temperance, and baptized four infants.

From Quincy I went to Alton, having been previously informed that some Germans resided there. On my way to this place, I found five or six families of European Germans living in the vicinity of Atlas, on Snycarte river, Pike County. I did not stop to preach for these people, as I resolved to return: but circumstances have frustrated my design.

At Palmyra, in Missouri, there are eight or ten families of European Germans. I had the great pleasure of finding the Revd. N. Rieger, at Alton. This gentleman came last summer from the Basle Missionary Institute for the purpose of labouring among his countrymen in the Valley of the Mississippi. He has spent the winter in this place, where are about sixty Germans most of them unmarried and not permanent residents. He intends to enter into another field in the spring. He seems to be a man of the right spirit, having a love for souls, and willing to labour for their salvation.

In St. Clair county there are more Germans than any other one in the west. I did not however visit these settelments; and the reason was, because the report which your former Missionary gave of their disposition and character so displeased many of them, that a Missionary in the service of your Synod would scarcely find a reception among them, and much less be beneficial to them. This they have avowed in the public prints. Mr. Rees from Basle is located in this country and is doing much good.

The next place I visited was St. Louis. Here I became acquainted with the Revd. G. W. Wall, who came from Basle in company with Revd. Mr. Rieger. The congregation at St. Louis has no pastor at this time Mr. Wall, preaching only as a supply. But I suppose he will soon be elected and become their regular minister. This congregation is large, there being about 400 communion members. For some time past they have worshipped in the Methodist Episcopal Church and are doing so yet; but they intend to build a house for themselves next summer. Recently a Sabbath-School has been organized in the Presbyterian Church for the benefit of the Germans. It already numbers 125 Scholars. Here they are taught the English language and also made acquainted with the Gospel. Children and adults attend.

From St. Louis, I had purposed going to St. Charles and then up the Missouri as far as Boonsville: but I was informed that Messrs. Heyer and Niece, who were sent into this country by the Bannen Missionary Society of Germany, were now laboring in St. Charles and the surrounding country. I was also credibly informed that the Revd. Mr. Garlich was actively engaged in a German settlement at Pinkney and Marthasville and therefore did not deem it necessary for me to visit that part of the state. The Revd. Mr. Picker is located in a German settlement on Apple Creek and I hope is doing good. At St. Louis I met with Revd. Mr. Posthauer a licenciate of your body, who was on his way to Jonesboro' in Union County. Thus all the German Settlements, in this section of Country, of which I had any certain information, being supplied, I found I could now close my tour without liability of censure. I was anxious to close at this point for two reasons: 1. I was by this time completely worn out by the various hardships of my journey; 2. I had determined to return to the west and make it my future field of labor. In this however I have been disappointed. I reached my home about the 1st of March, after having been engaged six Months in your service.

The following statements are a summary of my Mission: I travelled at a moderate computation, three thousand miles—preached eighty Sermons and lectured frequently — baptized twenty-four — confirmed one — administered the Lords supper to thirty Communicants—collected for Missionary purposes $38.56.

The results of this mission, which cost me so much toil and anxiety of mind, eternity alone can fully unfold. My earnest prayer has always been that my labors may be useful to those, to whom I was sent to minister.

I would now in conclusion beg leave to suggest to your body, not to assign to your future missionary so large a field of labor. The people in the west have been imposed upon by unworthy men. This has made them suspicious of strangers and every man who comes among them, however good his credentials, must remain some time before he can secure their confidence. A man who has three states to traverse cannot stay long in one place. He cannot become acquainted with the character and wants of the people and though he may preach the truth faithfully, the impression seems evanescent.

I would also recommend that your next missionary be instructed to pay particular attention to the State of Missouri; for it is highly probable, that within its bounds there are many Germans who have never been visited.

May the great Shepherd and Bisbop of souls abundantly bless and prosper you in this great and important enterprise, is the prayer of your humble servant.

EZRA KELLER.

May 24th, 1837.